

Synopsis of Preceding Chapters.

Norman Holt, favorite sen of an cld Kentucky family, is reprimanded at West Point for dueling and is withdrawn by his high-spirited father. His homecoming in the winter of 1860 is celebrated by an old-fashioned Kentucky Christmas gathering. Among the guests are Daisy Lane, daughter of Dr. Holt's lawyer, and J. Burnett Malloy, both of Cincinnati. The latter bringt letters of introduction from Lane's partner, Mr. McIntyre, and is courteously received, but arouses the fealousy of Norman Holt by his attentions to Daisy Lane. Malloy soparates Miss Lane from the main party during a for hunt and at the Christmas ball the same evening affects an air of proprietorship distasteful to Laisy and obnoxious to his rival. Norman Holt. But all ill feeling is forgotten when at midnight all surround Dr. Holt to drink the Christmas punch, which ceremony is interrupted by a midnight messenger who announces the dangerous illness of Judge McIntyre. Investigation reveals his financial affairs in a hopeless tangle, and the Holt fortune dissipated. Henry and Norman enter Lane's law office in Cincinnati. Norman entirs as a private in the Ohio infantry. Malloy, through political influence, is lieutenant in the same company, and Henry Holt joins the contederate forces. Norman is ordered to conduct a skirmishing party under Captain Wing to Belleview, in search of proriment rebels. Belleview raid falls, Wing captured and Norman accused of treachery. Brain fever saves him from trial and takes him to the hospital. Charges against Norman are disproved by Enyart. Norman rejoins his regiment and aids Sheridan in capturing Henry Holt. Norman Holt drugged by Malloy while on picket duty is found asleep at his post. Court marrial convicts Norman who demands that Malloy, whose testimony convicted him, shall head firing party on the day of his death. Norman is pardoned by President Lincoln and made lieutenart of Kentucky infantry. Norman has high praise from Sheridan for gallant rally of troops, and when Malloy, whose Synopsis of Preceding Chapters.

fortunes of the cause he had so gallantly served, winning soldier honors everywhere; but when the last plank floated out from under the sinking craft, proudly refusing to return to the state so divided against itself. It was then he joined hands with three or four of his comrades, and for the time, at least, was spending his days abroad. For this course there was, perhaps, another reason, long anticipated in Kate Ray's final acceptance of General Bob Enyart's hand and heart and fortune. "The best thing by long odds the war did for me," as he frequently declared, though its close found him a division commander and made him a major of regulars before he was out of his twenties. There was many a hard fight after Chattanogà in which Buckeyes and what was left of our old friends, the Emmets, were prominent features, Gaffney coming in for more hard knocks than glory, yet sending his "missidges" and congratulations to Colonel Holt after the famous march to the sea, with every promise and inand by and marry "Kate-Sister" or pretty Lou Ward (who was smitten with one of Morgan's dashing raiders), or Lorna Walton (who wore the confederate colors beneath her expensive bodhers are colors beneath her expensive bodhers and sould not see what so many men saw would not see what so many men saw would not see what so many men saw would not see what so many men saw sould experience the same state of the same state o

XXV—A Double Escape.

XXVI—The Leap of the Line..

XXVII—Victory.

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the sideboard, and, with the eyes of all upon him, stepped forth until the silvery curls were squarely beneath the silken emblem he had turned from in wrath four years agone, and that in nervousness or sense of lingering animosity he had obviously shunned and shrunken from ever since. Norman, clasping hands at the moment with Major Lane, noted the sudden hush, and turned to see. Like a cavalier of the days "when knighthood was in flower," the now venerable host was bending over Daisy—Daisy, a dream of joyous, girlish, womanly, wifely beauty. joyous, girlish, womaniy, wifely beauty.
One instant he glanced around him with glistening eyes; then, circling her slender form with his arm, he bowed

his handsome old head and pressed his his bandsome old head and pressed his lips upon her brow. Then looked up-ward at the flag, and his trembling hand, following reverently, touched one moment the starry field, then slowly, tenderly fell, as though in benediction, tenderly igit, as though in beheviction, upon her forehead.

"Little woman," he said, "I'm too old to reconstruct, but I reckon that big boy you stole from me did—about right when he stood by that flag."

(FINIS.) I-Christmastide in Old Kentucky. II-A Midnight Sun III—A Drive in the Dark.
IV—Flag of Family.
V—Soldier in Spite of All. "Desdichado VII—The night ride. VIII—Beaten, if Not Betrayed. IX—Her Face Again. X-A Rival's Blow XI-Brother Against Brother. XII-Sheridan's Pro XIII—Asleep on Post. XIV—Court-martial.

XVI-Shot With the Honors of War. XVII-Commissioned.

XV-The Death Sentence

XIX-A Call to Battle.

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XXV-A Double Escape.
XXVI-The Leap of the Line..
XXVII-Victory

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cure, no matter what his hance the disease may be caried by doctors.

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THE LITTLE HEAD SANK BACK INTO THE HOLLOW OF THAT BROAD SHOULDER

comrade. On the one hand ray her ish-mael, a useless life, a ruined career; on the other stood he who had so faithfully striven to befriend her weakling, he whom they had so despitefully treated, now a tried leader of men, tempered by adversity, tested through fire and flood, crowned with the honor and acclama-tion of his soldier comrades, high in tion of his soldier comrades, high in rank and command, despite his youth, rank and command, despite his youth, yet not so high that, in pity and sympathy and forgiveness, he had stifled the sense of his own suffering that day by day he might succor their dying boy. With her face bowed upon his hands, she was silently weeping when the door from an adjoining room opened, and Daisy came slowly in.

Not since the week of Theodore's arrest had he set eyes on her. That was only a year agone, yet all the girlish look had fled from her face, leaving it

"It is Norman in spite of all," answered the sorrowing woman, looking wistfully, pleadingly into the pallid, clear-cut, manly face, as she half timidly held forth both hands. Good God! what humility of suffering there is for the mother who turns from the wreck of her own hopes, from the death of all that was planned and prayed for in her first born, and gazes upon the full fruition of effort and energy in the person of another—her boy's own friend and comrade. On the one hand lay her Ish-

pathetic, sorrowful, yet inexpressibly sweet. It was the face of a woman chastened by anxiety and suffering, one in whom gentleness, tenderness and devotion had triumphed over thought of self and made a ministering angel to the aging and distressed. The mother had known that death would doubtless THE LITTLE READ SANK BACK INTO THE HOLLOW OF THAT BROAD SHOULDER.

The gling and distressed. The mother and known that death would doubtless be the sentence of her son should he fall into the h. who of the Union army, and all ber thoughts had been of him and his peril. The daughter had had to carry a double load. The knowledge that her father's affairs were going from had to worse, that the investments prompted by the elder Malloy had been realized by the elder Malloy had been fall that now only he stood between that father and financial ruin. Malloy went further still. He had not scrupled to tell the daughter her father's good name was involved, as had been her hould not have to meet him so?

I sank her for the sirl kan had to been, in the determination that her mother, hould not hear it. All this had Malloy been whispering into her cars in furtherance of the suit of his inopeful son. No wonder, as Kate Ray wrote, "Daisy looked as though she were going into a de-ime."

And then for long months she had known how brideously unjust was Theodore's accusation against the lover toward whom her young heart had leaned from the first—the lover whom they had all seven derived and mother's many the seven the seven the seven than the conventional mask. There are men who can ride into battle hear had sourced and in the dear old for the sample were flower, and then when her return. She had asked him to take a small packet with inin, bit to take small packet within, bit to take a small packet within, bit to take the return. She had asked him to take a small packet within, bit to take hear a she were spong her face was blank. The darkles were "It isn't—at least I can't find some from the hear and the visual she were the was to complete the long." And wondering that their cool, level-headed Kate should appear to prefur hear of the long. The dore was able to rince, the would write with Dais

dore's accusation against the lower to-ward whom her young heart had leaned from the first—the lover whom she had spurned at her brother's and mother's demand—the lover whom they had all wronged, and, according to Malloy, whom the father had actually robbed, for trust money, too, said he, was in-volved in the father's speculations. What reward had Norman received at their hands for his devotion to her

heir hands for his devotion to her rother and to her? The works after Theodore's arress that she learned the falsity of the course of the falsity of the course of the falsity of the course of the falsity of the

"It is Colonel Holt now, Daisy," said her father, coming forward.
"It is just Norman, Theodore's friend," said he, finding voice at last, and striving to speak as though he would give her hope and reassurance, but she saw how little hope there was behind the conventional mask. There are men who can ride into battle laughing in the face of death, yet cannot so much as summon a smile when the King of Terrors sits by the bedside of another for whom women watch and pray. He knew that there need be no fear of earthly tribunal for the fastfailing son and brother. Perhaps it was better so.

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Three days more—only three—were given to him in which to minister to Theodore, to strive to comfort and strengthen the sorrowing mother, to be of aid to the girl for whom ail the old love seemed to be revived, redoubled. Of that it was no time to speak. One afternoon there came a dispatch. The colonel commanding the —th Kentucky cavalry desired to know how soon the lieutenant colonel could report for duty. There was urgent need of his services. Showing it to Enyart. Norman bri.fly said: "I start tonight," and Bob could only press his hand and say: "You're right."

But it was another matter to break it to the Lanes. He dreaded the effect on Theodore, so rapidly was he failing. It was Kate Ray again who came to Norman's aid. She had heard and lost to the infinite love in every last t

see what so many men seemed to see in Miss Ray."

But once more the great hickory logs blazed in the broad fireplaces. Harkness and Hannibal, son of Harkness, were there with a host of the same old brood of aunties, uncles and pickaninnies, only too glad to see a resumption of holiday joys, hopeful of "Christmas gifts," and, while proud of their freedom, only too eager, as a rule, to admit their dependence and entire willingness to be fed, clothed and comforted by somebody else. Unc' Pomp and his fiddlers had wandered away; nor were there dancers galore as in the old days, nor crops, nor spurs, and hunting caps, nor foxes, masks and brushes. These were gone with successive occupants—"trophies," north and seuth. The glamor of the past was lifted from the walls of Belleview, but new blood was tingling in the veins—new ideas, new energy, burning in the brains of Belleview's restorers

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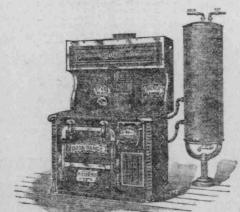
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